



MEMOIRS
OF
CASTOR



ILLUSTRATED

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Memoirs of Castor and District



By T. H. M.



CASTOR, ALTA.

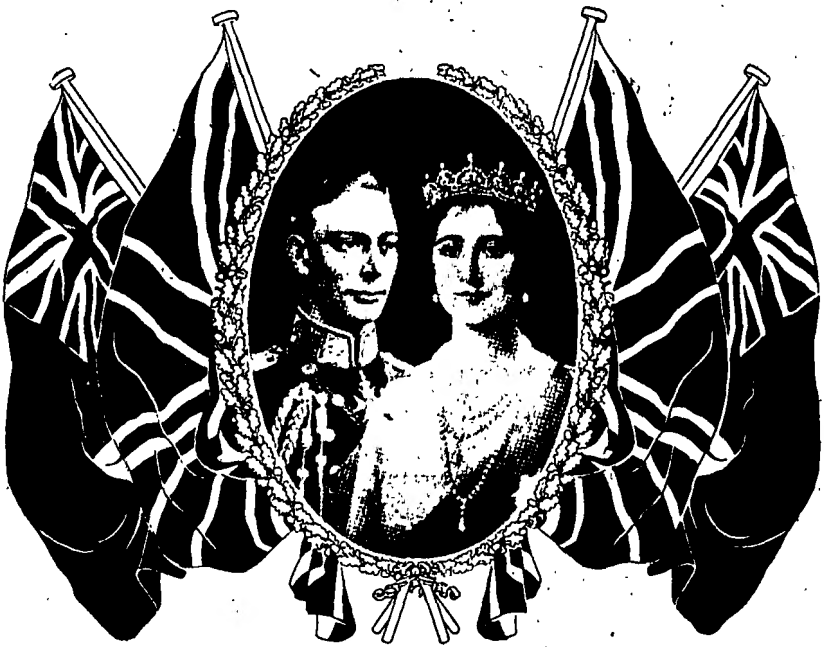
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Coronation
of
Their Majesties



King George and Queen Elizabeth



May 12th, 1937



Foreword

In the following descriptive volume we have earnestly endeavored to give as true an account as possible of the history of Castor from the time of its inception to the present day.

We are very grateful to those citizens who have furnished us with the most valuable data, and to those who have so kindly loaned photographs. We also extend thanks to the advertisers, whose patronage has been all that could be desired. Indeed, their cooperation has been most gratifying.

We hope our readers will derive as much enjoyment from our humble efforts, as we have from compiling together of the necessary and at the same time, most interesting facts concerning our community. In this we have earnestly tried to give the people of Castor something "a little different."



: Castor :

Chapter 1

This charming little town, set amidst the heart of the prairie, with its avenues of gaily-planted trees, very pleasing to the eye at this time of the year, is quite an important and interesting agricultural centre.

Its development has been founded chiefly through its very rich mixed farming districts, where wheat, cattle, hogs and horses are among the more important agricultural products.

It is situated on the Lacombe-Coronation branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 35 miles east of Stettler, 85 miles east of Lacombe and 22 miles west of Coronation. It is one of the larger towns on this line. Although the land in the district was for the most part homesteaded and purchased in the years 1905 to 1909, the town itself was started in 1909 at the site one mile east of the present location and it was originally known as Williston.

When the townsite was sold in about July, 1909, Williston was abandoned and the businesses already in operation there were removed to the present site. Many other buildings were immediately constructed.

Among the town's first business establishments were Acorn Lumber Company, Nicholl and Dillon, general merchants; Farmers' Hardware; Crown Lumber Company, and the Williston Trading Company, conducted by Mr. Walters, pioneer merchant. With the advent of the railroad in December, 1909 the growth became rapid and within the next two or three years the town boasted a population in excess of 1,500 people.

Operating as a village for a short time, Castor became an incorporated town in June of 1910, with Hugh Smith as the first mayor, and Mr. L. B. Brown as the first secretary. The council consisted of G. M. Dillon, T. Finlayson, R. Travers, A. H. Illsey, F. Whiteside and G. R. D. Lyon. All of these men contributed wonderful service to the rapidly-growing town.

Serving as the railhead for the whole country east, practically to the Saskatchewan border and south to the Red Deer River, which area was then in process of settlement, a vast amount of business was done in the town during the next few years, particularly in the way of farm machinery and building supplies.

Materials for the building of the towns of Coronation and Hanna were hauled by team from Castor. Several industries, too, were opened up, among which were the lignite coal mines adjacent to the town; a brick manufacturing plant and sandstone quarries. Many of the town's substantial buildings were constructed of Castor sandstone or of locally manufactured brick.

*Helena Greenleaf Muller
I went to church in the Methodist
Road Church.*

*My Dad Homesteaded on 4th Meridian
-37-14-W of 4th Meridian
(Golden Spike)
Drove in.*

Williston

*My Dad Homesteaded on 4th Meridian
-37-14-W of 4th Meridian
(Golden Spike)
Drove in.*

In 1906. & known The First Train came in to Castor & saw the Golden Spike.

R. M. Spratt & Co.

(ESTABLISHED 1910)



**TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OF SERVICE
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Our aim has always been to give the Best of Service combined
with Quality Goods. . . . Your Patronage is Appreciated.



DRY GOODS AND READY-TO-WEAR

MEN'S FURNISHINGS



AND A COMPLETE STOCK OF
GROCERIES and CHINAWARE
FLOUR and FRESH FRUITS



R. M. SPRATT & CO.

GENERAL MERCHANTS

CASTOR

ALBERTA

The present public school and the Bank of Montreal buildings were erected in 1910, the Royal Bank at that time occupying premises in the National Hotel building. The Bank of Montreal first opened a branch at Williston, of which R. J. Dinning was the manager, later it was moved to its present excellent building. At this time the Reverend Sisters laid the foundation for the present perfectly-equipped "Our Lady of the Rosary" Hospital and the Montfort boarding school. In 1913, the municipal gas well was drilled. A street and building gas lighting system was installed and operated very successfully. It was later abandoned on account of the flooding of the well.

With the moving on of the railroad towards the east, Castor, during the few years that followed, suffered the inevitable setback from the "boom" stage, this being accentuated by financial and other conditions after the outbreak of the World War.

The post-war adjustment years witnessed another mild boom during 1925 to 1929. This was followed by the world-wide depression and its far-reaching results. However, being situated in an excellent mixed farming district, and with careful and very conservative management, the town is at the present time in excellent financial condition. It has practically no outstanding indebtedness.

Castor has a distinct advantage in its particularly good townsite, with the Beaverdam Coulee practically encircling it, thus affording excellent drainage. There is an abundance of good water in wells which range from twenty to two hundred feet in depth. The streets are all graded and partly surfaced with shale. There are cement sidewalks and many trees are planted on the streets and in private grounds.

Possibly the greatest advantage that Castor enjoys, in comparison with many other towns, is its practically unlimited coal supply. The whole town is underlaid with a very fair grade lignite. Many of the basements have been dug in the coal seam.

The four deep and the two drift mines of the district serve a large territory to the east and to the south, practically a continuous procession of teams and trucks hauling coal to the consumers. In addition, upwards of three or four thousand tons are annually shipped by rail to distant points.

But this is by no means the sole local industry. There are many quite enterprising businesses in this busy little community, and among these are The Castor Flour Mill, built by J. H. Zinger about nine or ten years ago. It possesses one of the most up-to-date flour and feed grinding plants of any country mill in the province. The mill is of 50-barrel capacity, we believe, and manufactures its very own brand of flour and cereals, as well as doing an excellent and extensive volume of custom grinding. A large adjacent territory is regularly served.

Another highly important industry is the Castor Creamery, started in 1925 by S. Allen and successfully operated ever since that time. This creamery has manufactured as high as approximately 265,000 pounds of butter in one year. The quality of this butter is indicated in the top prizes won at the Toronto, Vancouver and prairie exhibitions. Apart from agriculture and the industries already mentioned, Castor has two fox farms, both of these operating with no small degree of success.

On the farming side, although the yearly average grain shipments run around 600,000 bushels, with a high output of 1,250,000 in 1923, the district is particularly well adapted for mixed farming. Approximately 1,000 cattle,



Original "Main Street," Williston Townsite

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QUALITY AND SERVICE

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HARDWARE
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HOUSE FURNISHINGS
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Agents For

Watch Repairs
RENFREW LINE

Victor Radios
CASE MACHINERY

CASTOR

ALBERTA

2,000 hogs, 200 horses and several hundred sheep are shipped out every year.

Approximately 75,000 pounds of live and dressed poultry are forwarded yearly to market, together with the large butter output of the creamery.

With such a background of resources and revenue, it is not surprising that Castor is a real trading centre equipped in all lines of business to serve the district to full advantage. There is a large comfortable hotel, a motion picture theatre, numerous stores representing general merchandise, drugs, hardware, groceries and meats, several garages, insurance, implement and oil dealers, tailoring, safes, bakery, lumber yards and other businesses. All of these tend to make Castor a town of success.

Then there is the printing office, which houses The Castor Advance, a weekly paper owned, controlled and edited by Mr. J. H. Salton. The paper has a very enviable record of more than a quarter of a century of faithful service to the community. Professionally, the town is fortunate in having two resident doctors, one dentist and a barrister.

Castor also enjoys excellent educational facilities, having a five-room public school and three-room separate school, both teaching grades 1 to 12. In addition, there is the convent boarding school in connection with the hospital. The town has four churches, the Anglican, United, Roman Catholic and Lutheran. Fraternal bodies and organizations represented are the Masons (who, incidentally, have their own hall), the Eastern Star, Elks, I.O.D.E., and the Canadian Legion.

In 1911, the Rosary Hospital opened its doors to the public, and it has continually, from that time, given the most efficient care and kindly treatment. The service rendered has been far-reaching, as few of the neighboring towns have had hospitals of their own until recent years. This hospital is most certainly a wonderful asset to the community.



Business Activity in 1910



An Early Photograph of The Hospital

With one of the best three-sheet curling rinks in the province to play in, curling is immensely popular throughout the winter season. The Bonspiel draws rinks from all the neighboring towns, with an average of twenty-five to thirty-five rinks competing. Two open air skating rinks are operated, one by the municipality, and the other by the Theresetta Separate school. There are hockey teams for all ages.

The R.C.M.P is represented by Corporal Staley, who has his residence here.

Among those looked upon as old-timers of Castor and district are the following: O. W. Colley, an active business man who has done his share of public service; T. Finlayson, who has given of his time and energy in various civic capacities; Dr. J. J. McPherson, who has been associated with every phase of public activity and sports promotion and has given a splendid service to the welfare of the whole community, both as a citizen and in his professional capacity; R. M. Spratt, whose fine business block, beautiful residence, and outstanding general store evidence the success that comes to a live merchant, who is at the same time a public-spirited and very progressive citizen; H. Matthias, a pioneer hardware merchant, present mayor and a councillor for many years. He is also J.P. and magistrate; J. F. Bryant, with a record of twenty-seven or more years in the real estate and insurance business; John Parr, an early settler, now engaged in the garage and auto business; W. Ford and S. Colwill, garage proprietors with an enviable record. Within the town and surrounding district there are others who have weathered the years, finding Castor as good a homeland as any other.

There is also the executive office of the Municipality of Progress, No. 365, of which Mr. A. R. Newsham is secretary, and who very recently completed twenty-five years of efficient and faithful service with this municipality.

Chapter 2

NATURAL GAS

Castor at one time had the distinction of having had its own gas. It was discovered in December 1911, during operations of sinking a well. A brief outline (taken from records) of the history of the well might be interesting to those who are not already acquainted with such facts. It will also, no doubt, recall to some, memories of the halcyon days that were typical of young Castor.

Appended is an account which we are pleased to reprint:

"After numerous trials, tribulations and contributions, the North West Drilling Company, as represented by Messrs. Triplett and Daley, succeeded in putting the finishing touches upon the now famous gas well on Thursday last, when it was capped and left ready for laying pipes for the illumination of the town as soon as the Finance committee have completed arrangements for the securing of the necessary collateral.

The well was capped the day before; but owing to a small leakage it was opened on Thursday morning last at 9 o'clock; and when the cap was removed those standing around were compelled to stop their ears at the sound of the rushing mighty wind, caused by the escaping gas, which was heard by Mayor Illsey as he was leaving his house, half a mile away; and was so plainly heard by many others equally far away.

After the leakage had been securely stopped, the cap was replaced and the same evening a second demonstration of the blow-off was given, which at the time registered a pressure of 270 lbs to the square inch in eight hours.

The demonstration, which illuminated the whole of the town and district, took place at the well in the presence of one of the largest assemblies of people ever held in Castor, accompanied by the town band. The illumination though not quite equal in height to that which was given at midnight the first day of the fair, Tuesday, September 18 (cut of which appears elsewhere) owing to the wind which was blowing at the time, the roar of the escaping gas demonstrated to all who hitherto had their doubts that at last the natural gas was a sure thing and quite all that it had been represented. The rush of gas through the six-inch standpipe was so great that less than twenty-five per cent of it was consumed, the rest of it escaping in the air, much to the discomfiture of the many who were standing around.

Immediately following the demonstration of Thursday evening last, the well was again closed down and after a 24-hour test it was found that the pressure had increased to 295 lbs.; which as far as can be ascertained until an expert test has been made, represents in the vicinity of three quarters of a million feet of gas every twenty-four hours.

In an interview with Mayor Illsey, as to whether this was adequate to light and heat the town, and as to what steps will be taken to utilize the same, he stated that the available supply was, in his opinion, adequate for all present requirements, and that arrangements are under way for raising the necessary finances whereby this new asset will be available for illuminating the streets in the business portion of the town as well as lighting and heating the business establishments in the centre of the town.



Record Flame of Gas Well, Midnight, September 16th, 1913

The mayor also intimated that negotiations are also in progress for securing the services of an expert in regard to the value of the well as a permanent revenue producing utility, who is to arrive within the next few days. In reply to the enquiry as to how soon it would be found possible to harness the new power for local consumption, Mr. Illsey suggested that within the next six weeks or so it should be possible to have the work of installing the service well under way."

The first discovery of natural gas in Castor was during the sinking of a well on the premises of Bert Peden, in December, 1911, when a small flow of gas was discovered at a depth of 387 feet. This was left burning for three months, at the end of which time the flame was as strong as the first day it was lighted up.

Meanwhile, the public was stirred by a new ambition and in view of what had been accomplished by Medicine Hat as a result of the exploitation of their natural gas, public meetings were held and petitions presented to the council with the result that on June 21, 1912, a bylaw asking for the passing of \$20,000 debentures was submitted to the ratepayers and passed.

On July 28 a contract was let to the North West Drilling Company for the boring of a well, and on November 4th the actual boring for gas took place. During the middle of December of the same year the boring operations were suspended on account of the weather, and they were resumed in April of the following year. Much trouble followed, resulting in the abandonment of the first well and a lot of delay in the commencement of the second well.

It might not be out of place to put a few figures on record, which will be valuable and interesting to those who may desire to retain this authentic statement of the Castor natural gas well for reference.

"At the 100 foot level the first evidences of gas were discovered; and at the 674 foot level it was discovered in a much larger volume. Between the 900 and 940 foot levels the drillers encountered a large flow of water, which took them some weeks to overcome. At the 1,158 foot level they discovered a two foot bed of coal; while at the 1,340 foot level they came across 26 feet of gas sand and the big pressure which registered approximately 300 lbs. to the square inch, and 133 lbs. or 43 per cent greater than the twenty-four test in Vegreville, which only registered 167 lbs. to the square inch.

CITY BAKERY

BEST QUALITY

BREAD

HIGH CLASS

CONFECTIONERY

CANDIES

"God Save The King"



Arrival of First Passenger Train, December 17th, 1909

Rail communication was completed into Castor on December 17th, 1909. The railway chose the town, taking into consideration two very important factors relative to transportation, one as a large agricultural centre and the other as possessing such worthy natural resources as coal and building materials. Previous to the completion of the line all commodities were shipped forty miles overland.

The long-awaited day finally arrived and at 4-30 p.m. on December 17th the pioneer train, known as "The Marvel," arrived in town, and on December 22nd a regular daily passenger service was inaugurated, and which has been in effect continuously ever since. Thus one more link in the chain was added to the growth of Castor. To strike a humorous note at this time, we are led to believe that a certain Mr. Payne, in his enthusiasm, endeavored to embrace the engineer of the newly arrived train. Since that time Castor has progressed with the growth of the country, and we have now a very imposing depot with well-kept grounds and trees. In fact it is one of the scenic spots of the neighborhood.

E. PERSCHBACHER Tinsmith, Plumber and Electrician

ESTIMATES CHEERFULLY GIVEN

"God Save The King"

The history of the old Royal North West Mounted Police and its connection with Castor dates back to before Castor really came into existence.

In the spring of 1909, Constable F. S. Bayley received instructions to take charge of the detachment of "Old Williston," as it was then named.

Constable Bayley was removed a year later and his place was taken by Constable T. G. Coventry. Coventry remained in charge until December, 1911. Constable E. M. Curry was placed in charge of the Town of Castor

At the present time the force is known as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and is at present represented by Corporal Staley, who has resided here for about ten or eleven years.

For a town of its size, Castor has really very fine fire-fighting equipment. Constant supervision on the part of the fire chief, aided by the loyal cooperation of the citizens, has materially lessened the fire losses during the past few years.

The town has suffered two severe setbacks through fire. One blaze occurred, we are led to believe, in 1921; the other in 1924, when a whole business block was razed. With great determination, the business men set about the task of rebuilding. That section is now rebuilt, and today it stands out as one of the most modern and really up-to-date business blocks.

The **BANK OF MONTREAL**

Has been in Castor for twenty-eight years, since the town began. It is therefore a pioneer of Castor and District, thus upholding the traditions of the Bank as a pioneer in banking for the Dominion of Canada.

During these twenty-eight years the bank and staff have taken an active part in the welfare of the town and district.

BANKING FACILITIES

In all departments are available: Deposits, Loans, Investments, and Money Orders.

World Wide Banking Service Courteously and Expeditiously Available.

Assets in Excess of \$800,000,000



The First Freight Train, September, 1911

COLLEY BROS. LTD.

LUMBER—IMPLEMENTS

AGENTS FOR

U.F.A. "MAPLE LEAF" GAS & OIL

In Business Since 1909

CASTOR

ALBERTA

Churches

Services were held in this old sod church by the Rev. Mr. Goddard, a Methodist student. His faithful work will doubtless be remembered by some of our older citizens. This quaint church edifice was, we believe, at Williston. Mr. Goddard left shortly before Castor started. He was succeeded by a Mr. Shaw, who was sent in by the Methodists.

About this time the Rev. Mr. Brown was visiting the various fields in the Red Deer Presbytery and held services at Embree's, Willow Point and Williston. After the service at the latter point a meeting was held to test the feeling of those present as to the holding of Presbyterian services. The prevailing opinion was in favor of the formation of a union church. Finally it was thought advisable to leave the field to the Methodists until Castor was of sufficient size to warrant sending in a Presbyterian minister.

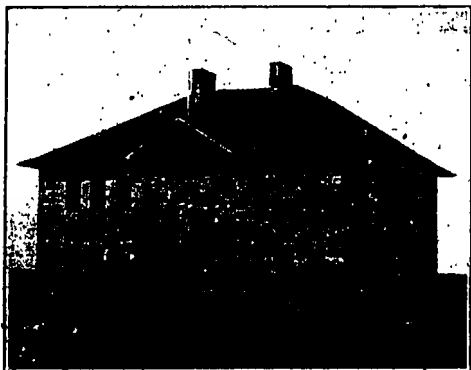


Castor's "Sod" Church

A great deal of the activity of the social life of Castor revolves around the four churches we have in our midst. Castor is very fortunate indeed in being thus represented. There is the Knox United Church, whose pastorship is held by the Rev. F. R. Harback; The All Saints' Anglican Church is under the guidance of Rev. F. Randall Powell; The Roman Catholic Church is represented by the Rev. Father O'Halloran, and the Lutheran Church is led by the Rev. W. Willing, ex-officio.

These churches cover a wide and varied field. The ministers devotedly give of their time and energy to the benefit of Castor and community, helping the youth of this district mold themselves into fine men and women, fitting them to take their places in society and carry on the good work of giving courage to the sick and needy; aiding the community in general, not only for the present, but for the future.

Castor School



In the late days of the year 1909, as soon as the excitement of the building of the business section of the town had subsided, the more serious minded began to plan for the providing of a suitable schoolroom, at the same time making an effort to secure the services of an efficient school teacher.

The services of H. McLachlan were secured and he began his duties in December 1909 in the hall above the Matthias and McBrine store. Mr. McLachlan taught grades one to eight, with an average number of 60 or 70 pupils.

In June of 1910, he resigned to enter the business of the Settlers' Lumber Company.

By this time there were about 120 pupils, so three additional rooms were provided, one in the Case building, one in Fielding hall and one in the Presbyterian church. Mr. W. H. Howard was enrolled as the new teacher.

A school board was then deemed advisable and O. W. Colley, W. J. Webb, J. Sewell and J. Parr were elected, while R. C. Murphy, B.A., L.L.B., was appointed secretary-treasurer. Plans for a new building were then discussed and before the close of 1910 a building constructed of Castor sandstone was completed.

January, 1911, saw Mr. W. H. Pedley succeed Mr. Howard as principal. He retained that position till the summer of 1913. At this time 240 pupils were attending and it was found necessary to have five assistant teachers.

A Mr. Mowatt acted as principal during the fall of 1913, and when he left Mr. McLachlan was persuaded to again take charge until a Mr. Arthur was appointed.

The 1914 fall term began under the leadership of Mr. J. Reid. He retained the office until 1916 when he was succeeded by Mr. Fleming. In turn he was followed by G. P. Black, after holding the principalship for two years.

Other principals holding office in later years were: F. G. Young, N. S. Fitzsimmons, Mr. Davis, F. Hamilton, Miss Mathias, Messrs. Cameron, Gish, D. H. Gilchrist, and the present principal, Mr. Ellingsen.

The Present Council



B. I. Dorval; W. Ford; F. H. Tucker (sec.); Dr. H. S. Macartney;
E. Brawner; H. R. Parr; T. Finlayson; W. Lumb; E. H. Matthias (mayor).



The Present School Board

R. M. Spratt (chair.); H. C. Chapin; D. Weaver; A. Miller; J. Hood;
F. H. Tucker (rec.)

Chapter 3

MUNICIPALITY OF PROGRESS, No. 365

To publish this book without giving an outline of the Municipality of Progress, No. 365, would be as it were, to sail the Atlantic without a ship. For the Municipality has been concerned in the betterment of government and governing bodies since 1906.

In an endeavor to unearth the necessary facts for a compilation of this Municipality's history, we are indebted to Mr. A. R. Newsham, who has supplied the following excerpts:

Municipal governments commenced in this district in the fall of 1906 and were known as Local Improvement Districts, each district comprising four townships with four councillors and secretary. The council was limited to Municipal Taxation and building roads, taxation being levied on acreage basis with a maximum of five cents per acre. School Boards having full autonomy relating to schools, assessing and collecting their own school taxes. Health facilities were provided by the Provincial Government; relief was unknown, everybody having to provide for themselves.

Provincial Government in 1912 passed the Rural Municipality Act, dissolved all local improvement districts and laid out larger areas with six councillors and secretary-treasurer, but allowed the right to continue as a local improvement district or form themselves into a Rural Municipality and take over the responsibility of providing health facilities and financing of

God Save Our Gracious King and Queen
Long May They Live To Reign Over Us

The McDermid Drug wishes to take this opportunity to thank its many patrons for the loyal support they have given us during the years we have had the pleasure of supplying your drug needs.

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THE McDERMID DRUG CO. LTD.

Manager, H. R. LACKEY, Castor

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OUR MOTTO

Phone: Night 47

"SERVICE AT ALL TIMES"

schools. This district chose to remain a Local Improvement District and was known as Local Improvement District No. 365. The following were the first council elected: Division 1, A. A. Masker; Division 2, W. G. Pyle; Division 3, J. Hiles; Division 4, L. Zimmer; Division 5, W.S. Ness; Division 6, W. B. Johnston; secretary, A. R. Newsham, he having been secretary of one of the smaller districts.

In 1918, legislation was passed cancelling all organized Local Improvement Districts, making them corporate bodies with name and number. This municipality chose the name of "Rural Municipality of Beaver Dam," but were too late to have this name registered. The late John Perris, then Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, suggested Progress, No. 365, as a name, which was accepted.

Schools continued in this municipality assessing and collecting school taxes until 1927 and upon a vote being taken, endorsed the transfer of all assessing and collection of school taxes in the municipality. In 1928 legislation was passed changing the name of Rural Municipality to Municipal Districts. In 1935 the Municipal District of Sullivan Lake was disorganized by the Provincial Government and two-thirds of the North End transferred to Municipal District of Progress, No. 365, thus making one of the largest Municipal Districts in Alberta, with seven councillors to administrate its affairs. The present council consists of: Division 1, C. F. Pals; Division 2, G. Wetter; Division 3, A. F. Miller (Reeve); Division 4, N. Fawcett; Division 5, E. O. Gale; Division 6, E. J. Jackson; Division 7, Ed. Borth.

National Service Station

British American Oil Products and Service

DUNLOP AND SEIBERLING TIRES

MARCONI RADIOS

After 26 years of continuous service to the people of Castor and district, during the reign of George V and Edward VIII, we are ready to face the future courageously working together under King George VI.

"GOD SAVE THE KING"



FORD AND COLWILL

Chapter 4

TRIBUTE



View of a Modern Business Block

Outstanding among the many fine stores of the town is the large general store of R. M. Spratt and Company, who established the business in about the year 1910. Some years later the unusually fine, large brick building was erected. Because of the finest quality stocks and splendid service to the community, fair dealing and modern merchandizing, this firm has enjoyed a marked degree of success and no establishment of the kind on this line rates any higher for premises, stocks and other essentials. The goods handled include groceries, dry goods and other customary lines.

Around the year 1920, when he entered business here as dealer for Buick, Chevrolet and Oldsmobile cars, Mr. D. O. Frederickson has sold many of them all over his territory which includes Castor, Coronation, Alliance, Galahad and Forestburg. He invites any prospective buyer to come in and be shown the new season's models. The Frederickson Garage has won, during the course of the years, an excellent reputation for first class repair work on all makes of cars. All shop work and service is in charge of Emil Unger, one of the best mechanics in the country. All auto supplies are carried, including the full line of Imperial Oil products. Mr. Frederickson also handles the John Deere farm implements and as a diversion writes fire insurance.

Relative to matters pertaining to the health of Castor, the town is well taken care of by medical skill, hospital and drug supplies. The particularly modern and well-stocked drug store is managed by Mr. H. R. Lackey, a graduate chemist and pharmacist, who specializes on the expert filling of doctors' prescriptions. Moreover, the stocks comprise everything in pure drugs, proprietary medicines, toilet articles, sick room and hospital supplies, books, stationery and all kinds of novelties. All the drug store needs of the community are adequately supplied.



Main Street in Earlier Days

The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire was founded by Mrs. Clark Murray, Montreal, February 13, 1900, to be a link between the women in all parts of the British Empire. The Order is as far-reaching as the Empire, and has as its motto, "One Flag, One Throne, One Empire." The Duke of Cornwall Chapter, I.O.D.E. was organized in Castor in February of 1931 and has since then been active in patriotic, educational and welfare work. The Chapter's motto is "Unity and Service. They continue to stand ready to serve "our community, our country, our Empire and our King."

The executive and members of the Duke of Cornwall Chapter Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, express their loyalty and devotion to Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of their Coronation.

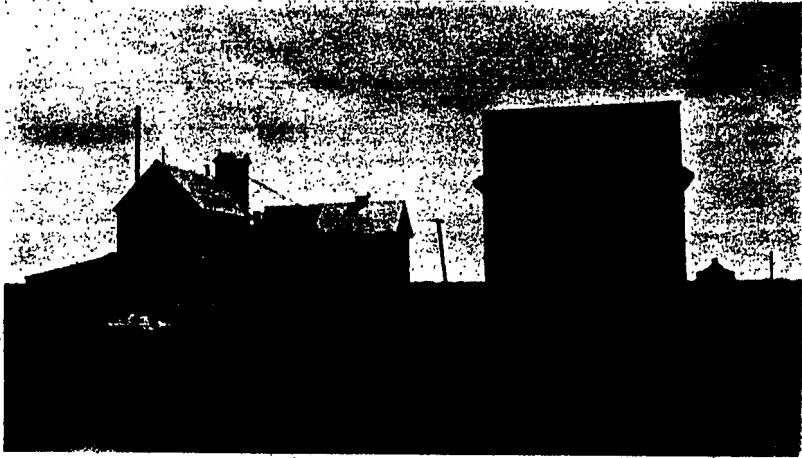
THE
IMPERIAL ORDER DAUGHTERS OF THE EMPIRE
(Duke of Cornwall Chapter)

SALUTE THEIR MAJESTIES
And Wish Them
PEACE AND HAPPINESS

"LONG MAY THEY REIGN"

For the last eleven years or so the Castor district has been fortunate in having such a valuable industry as a modern, well-equipped creamery that has in no small way stimulated dairying, and added to the incomes of the majority of the farmers, which, in turn, has reacted most advantageously to the best business interests of the town. Incorporated in 1925, it was taken over shortly after by Mr. S. Allen, who is still at the head of affairs. There has been a steady improvement in the output of butter and appended is a brief summary: Butter manufactured in 1933 amounted to 222,223 lbs; in 1934, 216,786 lbs; 1935, 222,095 lbs; 1936, 225,277 lbs. The butter has been graded by the federal grader, and in 1934 it graded 85.754; 1935, 91.561, and in 1936, 92.597.

Prizes for butter won at various exhibitions resulted in 14 seconds in 1936, one first and 13 seconds and one third in 1937. In addition to these the creamery was awarded fourth prize for commercial butter in 1936 in competing with 95 other Alberta creameries.



The Castor Flour Mill

An industry of east central Alberta very beneficial to the community it operates in is the Castor Flour Mill, owned and operated by Mr. J. H. Zinger, and reputedly built by him about the year 1927. The mill manufactures flour and other high grade products, its special lines being breakfast foods and whole rolled wheat. The quality of these products will bear comparison with those of any other similar mill and they enjoy a wide demand all over this part of the country. A large amount of custom grinding is done for the farmers who bring their grists from far and near and sometimes exchange their wheat for the mill's flour. They know that getting their wheat milled here means a very decided saving. Better results than ever are now given, due to improvements made in the equipment. This is approximately a 50-barrel mill and its apparatus is all of the most up-to-date type. Part of the equipment is the very modern feed grinding plant, well known for its fast capacity and good results. Having both Burr and Hammermill grinders the mill grinds anything from seeds to feed bundles and a large amount of this work is handled.



Magnet Store

"As a Magnet We Draw and Hold"
WE DELIVER

A Rubber Dollar was never heard of before, yet you will find that, by dealing at the MAGNET, your dollars will actually stretch and thus enable you to meet your budget.

WE GUARANTEE

GOOD SERVICE
CLEANLINESS

QUALITY
MODERATE PRICE

Order Your

GROCERIES, DRY GOODS

From Us and Assure Yourself Satisfaction

Grocery Department
R. J. WIART

Meat Department
TONY WIART

"As a Magnet We Draw and Hold"! Such is the motto of one of the community's leading merchants. Only the very best quality goods are stocked within this very imposing establishment. Founded upon years of experience, this firm can supply foodstuffs that will wholly satisfy the most fastidious buyer. Here at all times will be found the most kindly consideration.

Another one of the most imposing and up-to-date establishments in the community is under the proprietorship of Mr. G. Maier. In his store can be purchased every commodity in the grocery line. There are drygoods of every kind; Ladies' and Gents' furnishings to meet the requirements of all. There is also the "Rose" Beauty Parlor in connection, where the most fastidious of the fair sex can be given complete satisfaction.

Castor possesses a fine billiard hall, operated by Mr. M. Mather. The Arcade Billiard parlor is equipped with up-to-date furnishings and is ready to serve your pleasure at all times. A wholesale tobacco stock is also carried. Come in and visit the genial host. Your patronage is welcome.

Travellers to Castor appreciate the comforts and homelike atmosphere of the town's highly reputed hostelry, the Cosmopolitan Hotel, which lives up to its designation as "The Friendly Hotel." In the hands of the present owner and manager, Mr. Ben Dorval, who has conducted this house for twelve or more years, it has gained in prestige as a house worthy of its reputation. The Cosmopolitan, from its large, comfortable rotunda to its numerous guest rooms, is extremely well furnished and always kept in the best of order. Bath and hot water are always available. There are also sample rooms. Not the least of the accommodations is the dining room, where the menu and service are on a par with the very best of rural hotels.

One of our most enterprising merchants is Mr. G. N. Davidson. Mr. Davidson conducts a very fine grocery business beneath his modern apartment block. During the time he has been here he has proven himself a staunch and patriotic citizen. A complete line of groceries is carried, also a soda fountain and ice cream parlor. For all your household needs a willing and cheerful service is extended.

One of the original business establishments of Castor which is still "going strong" is that of the hardware and furniture store founded about 1907 by E. H. Matthias and now carried on by his son, A. H. Matthias. The record of this store is very creditable and is a business that has never failed of very generous support from the public. They carry a complete stock of hardware, special lines being Washers, Paints and Radios. There is also a good line of high-class and everyday furniture, beds and bedding, etc. In connection, Mr. Matthias has an ambulance and funeral directing concern. He has the full and most modern supplies necessary for work of this kind.

Tinsmithing, plumbing and electrical work is in the capable hands of Mr. E. Perschbacher, who came here a number of years ago. He is at the service of Castor and district at all times and guarantees efficiency. A well-known make of radios is also carried by this enterprising merchant.

One of the oldest pioneers in the automobile business of Castor is that carried on by Parr Motors. There, every requisite for your car can be obtained. "First Class Repairs Combined with Satisfaction" is a slogan of this enterprising firm. A well-known make of radio is also handled. This old established concern can always be depended upon to give the utmost satisfaction to all its clients.

PARR MOTORS

Castor

PHONE 22

Alberta

DEALERS IN

FORD V-8

CARS AND TRUCKS

All Makes of Cars
SERVICED

To Their Majesties
PEACE AND HAPPINESS

COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL

B. DORVAL, Proprietor



"THE FRIENDLY HOTEL"



Where the Cuisine is

Par Excellence



Extend to Their Majesties

A LONG AND PROSPEROUS REIGN

And to His Patrons of Castor and District

SUCCESS AND PLENTY

Among the many enterprising merchants that serve Castor is the firm of G. Huson and Son. They carry a full line of leather repair materials and guarantee all boot and shoe repairing. This business is symbolical of the phrase "It's never too late to mend. A stitch in time saves nine." Mr. Huson and Son also do high grade carpentry and cabinet work, furniture repairing, upholstering and picture framing, tools sharpened, etc. They are always at your service.

Castor is very fortunate in its choice of restaurants. One of these is the City Cafe. This modern, up-to-date restaurant serves good, wholesome meals and has a soda fountain and ice cream parlor in connection. It also carries cigarettes, tobaccos and candies.

Castor's tonsorial interests are in the hands of Mr. J. McConkey, who, for many years has quite capably and successfully catered to the needs of the people. He specializes in Ladies' Hairdressing, Shampooing, etc. The greatest consideration is always extended to his many patrons.

When your car is in need of servicing, take it to one of the pioneer establishments. The firm of Messrs. Ford and Colwill can supply everything your car needs. No matter what make or model, it can be given the highest "service," a feature of which is the courtesy extended to patrons of this genial concern.

One of the ablest mechanics in the district is Mr. Emil Unger, who is a specialist in his line of business. Repairs of all kinds to any make of cars, trucks, farm implements, machinery of every description, is his stock-in-trade. His work is fully guaranteed. His geniality and consideration to every want holds him in high esteem by all his patrons.



The amiable Mr. Armstrong began operating in Castor on September 1, 1925. His mine is located in legal Sub-division 14, Section 34, Township 37, Range 14, west of the Fourth Meridian. Since that time, Mr. Armstrong has endeavored to supply Castor with the highest grades of coal.

The real estate, loan and insurance business is represented by Mr. J. Irving Bryant, LL. B., who has been in Castor more than 27 years. He is also agent for C.P.R. and Hudson's Bay lands. During the years, in this capacity as business man, Mr. Bryant has come in contact with many types of people. He has proven himself a staunch business asset to the community.

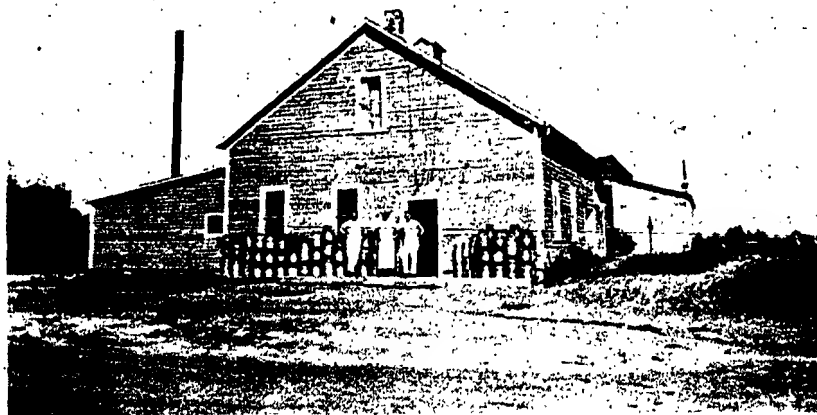
The Castor Hardware is under the management of Mr. T. Harrison. This modern business carries a full and complete line of shelf and heavy hardware, wallpapers, furniture, stoves and sporting goods. A very efficient business is conducted and full attention to your requirements is given at all times.

By way of entertainment, the Pekin Theatre, owned and operated by Mr. Bob Leach, ably serves Castor and surrounding district. Here one may see and hear the latest motion pictures and music in comfortable surroundings. There is also a large dance hall in connection with the theatre, where the very latest and most modern dance music is played for the enjoyment of all.

Lumber, machinery, oil and a myriad of other things are to be obtained at Colley Bros., Ltd.. Mr. O. W. Colley, being one of the oldest pioneers of the district, can fully understand and therefore cater to, the every requirement of the most exacting customer.

Castor is well represented in the tailoring industry by Mr. William Grosse, who has been in the district many years. In his capacity as tailor, Mr. Grosse has endeavored at all times to give the utmost satisfaction, specializing in Tip-Top Tailoring, Stetson shirts and kindred goods.

The city bakery, owned by that genial and highly-respected citizen, Mr. Charles Barnes, supplies only the very highest quality bread and confectionery. The latest modern and sanitary baking methods are applied which ensures the highest degree of efficiency and satisfaction.



The Castor Creamery

When in need of highest quality Stove or Lump coal, there is no more satisfactory service to be obtained than that which is given by Phillips' Coal Mine. One of the early mine operators of the district, Mr. Phillips has from the commencement of his operations always extended courtesy and consideration.

Auctioneering, the time-honored custom of which is an art unto itself, is capably handled by Mr. Frank Burns, who travels the district handling "Sales and Auctions" with the all the art of a pastmaster. Genial and considerate, Mr. Burns is well liked in his chosen profession.

The Remillard Coal Mine was opened in December, 1922. By the following year coal was being hoisted to the extent of about 5,000 tons. The mine's depth is approximately 42 to 60 feet and about 214 feet outwards. Lump and Stove coal is shipped out to various points.

Connected with Castor's important coal industry is a well-known old timer in the person of Mr. Dan Shaw, whom, we believe, first commenced mining in this locality in 1911. Throughout the years he has endeavored to supply the very best of fuel, as well as a prompt and efficient distribution.

J. M. McCONKEY

Ladies' and Gents'

HAIRDRESSING

SINGEING and SHAMPOOING

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

"Long Live The King"

The local newspaper interest of Castor and its surrounding districts is well taken care of by "The Castor Advance," which is owned and controlled by Mr. J. H. Salton. The Advance is a "Weekly," and fully covers everything of interest to local and suburban residents. Mr. Salton has had a wide and varied newspaper career. Coming West in 1907, Mr. Salton was on the Red Deer Advocate for a number of years and from there went to the Herald in Ponoka, Alberta. Later branching out into ownership of newspapers himself, he published for a time the Mirror Journal, subsequently taking over the



Mr. J. H. Salton, Proprietor of The Advance.

Clive News. In the year 1928 he came to Castor and purchased The Advance. He has been here ever since, continuing to uphold the traditions of the paper as being a "live, sound and constructive periodical." By virtue of a contract with the Municipality of Progress, No. 365, the Advance finds its way into almost every rural home. Such a condition is an absolute guarantee of circulation. The Advance is made up of four pages, all of which are set and printed locally.



Arrival of Today's C.P.R. Passenger Train

CASTOR

(Contributed)

We are indebted to Miss Alice Hayden for the following descriptive article on Castor. Miss Hayden is the daughter of one of Castor's earliest pioneers, and there is no doubt that her contribution will be greatly appreciated.

This beautiful little town of Castor was once a part of the open prairie. About 1909 several ranchers had been settled around this district and among them were Travers and Stocken's ranch, Lane and Climie, North Star ranch, owned by Jacque's, and the Willow Ridge ranch, owned by Currie and McVeity. This latter ranch is now operated by William Ullmer.

The first townsite of Castor was at Williston, but later moved to its present position where the C. P. R. surveyed eighty acres of land. While the lots were being prepared for sale the settlers camped in Williston and before the lots were bought and buildings constructed, many businesses were carried on in tents. Among them were Walter's Country Store and Post

WM. GROSE

Agent For

Tip Top Clothing **Stetson Shirts**
Douglas Shoes (Men) **White Cross Shoes (Women)**

CLEANING

PRESSING

REPAIRING

Castor

Alberta

Office; G. Farmer's Hardware, managed by Murray Lock; Webb and Hobb's General Store; Nickel and Dillon's; Angus McKay's livery stable and the Matthias and McBrine's Hardware. The first doctor and druggist were Dr. Lyon and G. Brown, and the postmaster was Stan Watson.

Shortly after people came to settle in town, Hugh Smith, the first mayor, bought Charlie Smith's homestead on which the first log shack was built, and sub-divided the land into lots. Fred Stocken sub-divided his land on the north side and was known as the Stocken Addition. Mr. Walters and R. Travers also had sub-divisions in the south of town.

Public buildings were soon erected and among the most prominent was "The White Man's Restaurant," opened by Smith and Chidley, where many rowdy and gay times were held. The Chinese Queen's Restaurant also opened about this time.

The Traders' Bank was a very busy place too, and that building is now the Theresetta school. The first theatre was built by Mr. Rogers, a negro, and the National Hotel was started by Carl Stettler. It was later burned down and we have now the Cosmopolitan.

George Auxier was the first solicitor and also town clerk. Doctor Macartney and C. Bower were first dentist and jeweller.

Several lumberyards were in business and nine livery stables were kept busy with settlers seeking land. A newspaper was started by Frank White-side and the telephone office was in the same building until an office for this purpose was built in 1920.

Sewell and Wiart ran a butcher shop; Nickel started a bakery and in 1910 R. M. Spratt started the People's Store. He still runs the leading store of the town.

To Their Majesties

"A LONG AND PROSPEROUS REIGN"



And To The People of

Castor and District

PEACE, PROGRESS and PLENTY



G. N. DAVIDSON

PHONE 133

GROCER

CASTOR

D. O. FREDERICKSON

All Makes of Cars
SERVICED

Chevrolet Cars & Trucks

OILS GREASES

ACCESSORIES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION ALWAYS ON HAND
ALL KINDS OF INSURANCE

"A LONG AND PROSPEROUS REIGN"

CASTOR

ALBERTA

Four churches were also built. These were the Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic. A Roman Catholic hospital was also opened.

Material was brought from Erskine and Red Deer for the Masonic Hall and the first house, which still stands at the north end of the town.

About 1911 it was believed that gas could be drilled for. A Tannery and brickyard were started, but neither amounted to any great value.

Our first "mountie" was Tom Coventry, who was the youngest son of the Earl of Coventry in Worcestershire, England.

Although there was no actual Public and High school building until 1910, Mr. Matthias offered the upstairs part of his hardware store for the purpose, and it was there that Hugh McLachlan undertook the task of teaching the first school pupils of Castor.

The population increased to a considerable number until the war when people gradually moved away, until today the population stands at approximately six hundred.

Our town now boasts of very pretty streets, where trees have been planted and cared for. One of the prettiest and best railway stations along the line meets the weary traveller's eye. There are five elevators, a flour mill and a creamery. All in all, Castor is one of the very best towns in the province of Alberta.

Chapter 5

HALKIRK

In drawing attention to the Halkirk district, it is hard to realize that but a few short years ago it was given over to a few isolated ranchers, who considered the prairie only fit for grazing. But later, the same ranchers engaged in farming in conjunction with ranching and they found it a paying proposition.

Among those thus engaged were Messrs. Lane and Climie. They came to the country in 1899 with a small outfit, but later went in extensively for cattle raising and wheat growing. Messrs. Jacques Bros., who came to the country in the early part of the present century, settled near the Lane and Climie ranch, went in for the breeding of fine horses and sheep. Among other representatives of the early days of the Halkirk district were Messrs. L. J. Baker, William Goldsburg and E. Bowman. One of the very early pioneers of the district a little north was R. J. Ferguson, who also made a notable success of farming and ranching. The soil in the district is very fertile. Also the people are blessed with an unlimited supply of coal from a not far distance, and water, which is found at a depth of from ten to thirty feet. The town of Halkirk commenced building in August 1909. The first to open up was Mrs. E. Underwood, formerly of Emsburg; then Mr. H. E. Higgins, a name familiar to all those who have followed the old main trail to Stettler. Mr. P. R. Chatham, who opened a hardware and machine busi-



THE BEST

"DOMINO HEREFORDS"

OUR SLOGAN AND AMBITION



F. O. DUKE & SON

HALKIRK

ALBERTA



COMPLIMENTS OF
GEORGE HILES

PATENT MEDICINES
SCHOOL SUPPLIES
and
SPORTING GOODS

HALKIRK DRUG STORE

ness in October 1909, later taking into partnership in December 1909, W. B. Dunlop, another old-timer of this district. Building continued rapidly, until today we have many up-to-date establishments to carry on the work of the early pioneers who had faith in the town and district.

One of the principal firms of the progressive district of Halkirk is that of F. Tarlton, of the Red and White Store. Mr. Tarlton is one of the most prominent citizens of Halkirk. His business carries a complete line of groceries and hardware.

The Drug Store trade in Halkirk is under the direction of Mr. George Hiles, another one of the district's most enterprising business men. He has been associated for many years with local affairs, and is also a leading light in sports' circles. His stock-in-trade consists of books, magazines, periodicals, etc. Mr. Hiles sees to it that Halkirk is supplied with pharmaceuticals.

Cattle interests of the district are in the hands of Mr. F. O. Duke, who is a very well-known old timer. The most noted "Domino Herefords" are among those pure bred animals which are only to be found on Mr. Duke's ranch. His cattle are shipped to distant points, which is indicative of the superior breed raised.

TARLTON'S

Red and White Brand Goods
"ARE FIT FOR KING GEORGE"

We Specially Recommend Them To
ALL HIS LOYAL SUBJECTS

RED AND WHITE STORE
Halkirk, Alberta



The Government Telephone Building

Emil Unger

AUTO REPAIR SHOP

BATTERY CHARGING, ACETYLENE WELDING

Expert Work on All Makes of Cars and Tractors

Reboring and Complete Overhauling of Motors

Steering, Brakes, Body and Fender Work

Service on General Motors' Cars According to
G. M. Service and Lubricating Plan

CASTOR

ALBERTA

Chapter 6

FLEET



An Early Photograph of Mr. J. T. Holland's Residence at Fleet

When the Fleet Rural S. D., No. 2, comprising Midvale, Fleet, Arthur-dale, Kimberley and Syson school districts, was organized in the fall of 1921, a rented building was used for the purpose. In 1928 the present building was erected. Since that time a number of teachers and several stenographers have graduated. Incidentally the High School of Fleet was the second one formed in the Province of Alberta.

The present members of the Board of Trustees are: G. Price, representing Midvale S.D. (chairman); E. Sharman, Fleet S.D.; H. Wideman, Arthurdale S.D.; F. Calson, Kimberley S.D.; Mrs. E. Geise, Syson S.D., and G. R. Davey, secretary.

Fleet is situated in Section 1-37-13. This community is in the midst of a large farming area and has three elevators supplying the needs of the district.

One of the prominent farmers of the district is Mr. Jack Hallett and another well-liked and respected personality is Mr. J. T. Holland, whose beautiful home in the midst of an everglade of trees and shrubbery is one of the scenic spots of the countryside.

This imposing establishment, carried on by the amiable and popular Mr. M. Slem, is well stocked to supply every need of this little community. Upon his shelves will be found only the very best quality groceries and provisions. In the hardware department, there is stocked every requirement for the town and country use.

Another one of Fleet's most enterprising merchants is Wong Wing, courtesy and generosity at all times, make him one of the most highly-respected citizens of the district.



Mr. Holland's Residence as it is Today

25 Years in Business

J. T. HOLLAND



LUMBER

AND

FARM IMPLEMENTS

FUEL OIL FOR SALE

TO THEIR MAJESTIES

A LONG AND PROSPEROUS REIGN



FLEET

ALBERTA

M. SLEMP



FINEST QUALITY

GROCERIES AND HARDWARE



Commemorating the Coronation of

Their Majesties

King George and Queen Elizabeth

"Long May They Reign"

FLEET

ALBERTA

One of the most interesting personalities of the Fleet district is Mr. J. T. Holland. Coming to the district many years ago, he has engaged quite successfully in the lumber and farm implement business. He has also been a nature lover, having improved the appearance of the locality by planting a veritable forest of trees and flowers.

WONG WING

GROCERIES and PROVISIONS

ICE CREAM and CANDIES

CONFECTIONERY

FLEET

ALBERTA



THEIR MAJESTIES
King George VI
and
Queen Elizabeth

On the twelfth day of May, the British Empire gathers in its capital city to crown a new King and Queen. The eyes of the world will be focussed on London that day to watch, not only the pomp and ceremony with which the greatest empire of all time hails its new monarchs, but to see one more page of history turned.

Little over a year ago, beloved King George V passed away to close a reign during which the love and loyalty of the British Empire's peoples toward their King and Queen swelled to a new high standard. Hardly five months before King George VI comes to historic Westminster to be proclaimed as the people's liege lord, he stepped to the throne under staggering circumstances and shouldered manfully a burden that he had not been raised to bear.

In those five months, the man whom the world knew and respected as Prince Albert, Duke of York, has earned a new measure of love and admiration from his people for his courageous facing of the burden of kingship. With his popular consort, Queen Elizabeth, he comes to the Coronation to stand in the pitiless glare of the world's spotlight in what will be one of the most gorgeous, and glittering spectacles of all time.

They come to the Coronation, this King and Queen, perhaps somewhat less known than had the floodlight of royalty been upon them throughout their lives as probable occupants of the throne, but His Majesty has garnered in his 42 years of life, a firm and understanding grasp of empire and world affairs, more acute by reason of his flair for observance and analysis. Their Majesties' road to the Coronation has not been trod with the glare of public interest that now surrounds them, but it has been trod wisely and well.

On the 14th of December, 1895, Prince Albert Arthur Frederick George, one day to become the Duke of York and then the British Empire's monarch, was born at beautiful York Cottage, Sandringham. The great queen, Victoria, was ruling in the last years of her long and honorable reign. Edward,

the baby prince's grandfather, was Prince of Wales, soon to ascend the throne as Edward VII. Prince Albert's parents were the popular George and Mary, Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, and one day to reign as King George V and Queen Mary.

It was a typical English family into which the prince was born, although stamped with the seal of royalty. His elder brother, Edward, was 18 months old; Albert himself was born 16 months before his only sister, Mary, now the Princess Royal.

Many a royal duty fell to the lot of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, yet no family bounded by the stiffness of royal formality was this, but a carefree English household, whose heads accepted without complaint the onerous duties that came their way, and yet still found time to become kindly and indulgent parents. Before them, too, was the realization of the important part that some day their children must play in the Empire's life.

Though the Boer War raged to disrupt the peace of the Empire and the great queen, the early years for the young Prince Albert and his brother and sister were comparatively uneventful. Too young to feel the tragedy of strife or of grief, the royal children were growing up as hundreds of thousands of other sturdy British children do. Their father and mother, realizing the responsibilities that would some day rest upon them, planned their lives so that early tutoring would instil in the youngsters an appreciation of their duties. But there was gaiety and laughter in the royal household. There were happy weeks at Sandringham when the court of King Edward VII was there. Then there were weeks in London and at Balmoral, in Scotland, where Prince Albert would one day find his bride. King Edward and Queen Alex-

ARCADE BILLIARD ROOM



A NEATLY KEPT PLACE WITH TABLES ALWAYS IN GOOD
CONDITION

"TRY THEM"

OUR TOBACCOS AND SUPPLIES
ARE ALWAYS FRESH



MATHER

Wholesale in Connection

THE CASTOR CREAMERY



FINEST

CREAMERY BUTTER

Highest Awards



S. ALLEN, Proprietor

CASTOR

ALBERTA

andra were indulgent grandparents to the royal youngsters and gladly supervised their welfare and their happiness while the father and mother were absent on many a royal task. Plentiful are the stories still told in the royal family of very practical jokes and escapades which were played in those care-free years; and if King George VI is a kindly and indulgent father today perhaps to his own happy boyhood must the credit be given. Sports became a popular pastime. Prince Albert learned golf and tennis and is still the best player at both of these games in all the royal household. Squash racquets, football and the grand old game of cricket, also claimed his attention before 1909, which saw the breakup of the family group and the start of a career in the Osborne naval training school.

Scotland very early was an attraction to Prince Albert. His grandfather, King Edward VII, spent as much time as his duties of kingship would allow, at the lovely and historic estate of Balmoral. When King George V came to the throne, Balmoral was even more popular as a gathering place for the royal family, and the Scottish moors often saw the monarch, who is one of the finest shots in his kingdom, on the hunt.

While at Balmoral, or indeed whenever the court had reason to visit Scotland it was, and still is, the custom to wear the typical Scottish garb. It was a tribute that Scotland deeply appreciated and which has drawn the royal family even closer to that country.

The carefree days of boyhood ended abruptly for Prince Albert when he was thirteen years of age. In 1909, his home surrounding gave way to the atmosphere of the naval training college at Osborne where the first principles of British seamanship were instilled into the eager mind of the prince. For

seven years he was to follow the path that is trod by every up-and-coming naval man who would become part of His Majesty's fleet. The first two years were spent at Osborne, Dartmouth and later aboard ship.

There was no distinction for the royal cadet. The same strict discipline that every other naval cadet must learn was his lot, and the same demands of mental and physical energy were made. But Albert was a very willing and anxious student. For the years he spent in naval training centres his ambition in life was to become an efficient naval officer. In 1912 Prince Albert passed from Dartmouth to the Cadet ship Cumberland, which, in January of 1918, began a training cruise which carried the young prince on an extended tour during which he visited Canadian and Newfoundland ports as well as the West Indies. The engineering side of naval life, of paramount importance in modern sea tactics, absorbed the prince, but eager though he was to work, he was even more eager to play. A "thorough good sort and a jolly good sport" was the way his shipmates classed him. When physical demands forced him to give up the sea career he had started, the navy was as regretful as the prince.



A Recent Photograph of the Hospital

Back from the Cumberland cruise, Prince Albert was gazetted midshipman and in September, 1913, he joined H.M.S. Collingwood. No rumble of war was then apparent, nor yet the following year when the great fleet exercises were held off Portsmouth. But only a few weeks later the blow fell. Britain was at war with Germany. Midshipman Prince Albert was still a man of the ranks, known aboard as Mr. Johnson, still doing his job with his brother officers with no recognition of his royal lineage asked or given. His father, King George V visited the Collingwood once, to greet his son only as a midshipman along with his fellow ratings. But appendicitis, which had worried the prince for some time finally forced him ashore and into a hospital. It was February, 1915, before he returned to his squadron, only to be again

forced ashore by recurrent attacks of the illness that finally halted his naval career. But before his sailing days were over, His Royal Highness was to feel the baptism of fire that a ship of the line earned at the mighty battle of Jutland. The Collingwood was not hit during the most shrouded battle in 1916, but she was engaged with more than one German warship and for his calm and courage under fire, Prince Albert was mentioned in dispatches. He served in a fore gun turret of the Collingwood during the entire engagement and his coolness was remarked upon by officers and men alike.

In February of 1918, with the struggle in France still dragging on, but with mighty strides taking place in the development of aviation, Prince Albert became a "birdman recruit." Perhaps to rid themselves of the persistent seeker after war jobs, since the navy was barred to him after his serious operation of 1917, the high command assigned the prince to the royal naval air station at Cranwell, where he was to learn something about the flying arm of the navy in which he had once served. He welcomed the opportunity to again be working among men who spoke the navy language, even if their interests were in different spheres, but with the exigencies of war the naval flying branch was soon amalgamated with the army wing, the royal flying corps, to become the Royal Air Force. Prince Albert moved into the R.A.F. with the rank of Captain. The war was soon to end, but before the armistice was signed, the flying prince had managed to work his way into active service, as he had in the navy, serving with Sir Hugh Trenchard's staff in France with its headquarters at Nancy. Then with characteristic thoroughness he plunged into post-war activity, working at the air ministry in London, and amassing in the course of a few months an amazing knowledge of govern-

1910

1937



J. Irving Bryant, LL.B.

Real Estate, Loans and Insurance

C. P. R. AND HUDSON'S BAY LANDS

Calder, Alberta

CANADA



MAIER'S CASH STORE



WE SPECIALIZE IN
GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS
OF
FINEST QUALITY

A Complete Line Of
SHOES and DRYGOODS

BEAUTY SHOPPE

AND

LADIES' DRESSES

Upstairs

ment departmental work as well as added flying theory. In July of 1919, he won his pilot's license, and in August he was named a squadron leader of the R.A.F., and later in the summer he bade a final farewell to active branches of both the navy and the R.A.F. The press of public duties which were making it increasingly necessary to devote his time to official work, forced the change.

Not until 1920 was Prince Albert, second son of their majesties King George V and Queen Mary, raised to the peerage. In the birthday honors list of that year, it was announced that the Dukedom of York had been bestowed upon Prince Albert, thus giving him a seat in the House of Lords and bringing him more notably into the public eye. King's son though he was, and a Knight of the Garter, an honor bestowed upon his 21st birthday, Prince Albert held no seat in the Lords. The Dukedom of York is not hereditary to the king's second son, as the Dukedom of Cornwall is to the eldest son, and which must be conferred. Thus, when in 1920 His Majesty created the prince the Duke of York, he was conferring the first honor upon him that carried with it a seat among the peers of the realm. The newly-made peer took his place on June 23, 1920. The Dukedom goes back to 1385, when it was created by King Richard II, and though it has lapsed at times for long periods, it has always remained in the gift of the monarch to bestow upon a son or other close relative. And romance and history have centred around the title from its first conferring until the day last December when Prince Albert, Duke of York, became King George VI, King and Emperor. In addition to the dukedom, Albert became Earl of Inverness and Baron Killarney—another link with Scotland that has played such a dramatic part in his life. The



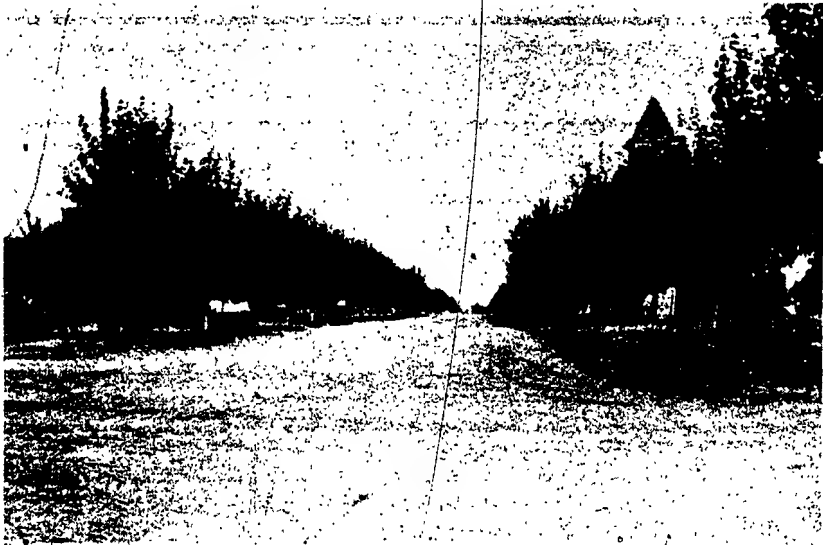
A. Modern Street

honors were fitting, for he was already taking an increasingly active part in the official duties that fell upon the royal family, and he was deputizing, on many occasions for his father, the king, and his brother, the Prince of Wales.

Romance came to Prince Albert at the close of his years of war service, and it was a romance that was to receive a tremendously enthusiastic reception from the people of Great Britain. Not considered at that time as the direct heir to the throne, the Duke of York perhaps was less governed by the dictates of state and politics than had he been the King's eldest son. He had, and used, the privilege of freely seeking the hand of the woman he loved. Though they had met as children, possibility that some day their paths would cross again, and that a great and enduring love would spring from the crossing, could hardly have occurred to this hard-working and conscientious prince and the cheerful and vigorous daughter of the house of Strathmore. It was not until the post-war years, when England and the world was seeking to forget the horror in a new upswing of social enjoyment that their friendship began to draw comment from society. Born at the family estate in Hertfordshire, and educated almost entirely at home until she passed the Oxford examination, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon was making her first full-season bow to Britain's elite circles then. Prince Albert, too, was coming more and more into public notice. In 1920 he paid a visit to Glamis Castle and the valiant tongue of rumor had the new tid-bit of pleasurable gossip. When Lady Elizabeth became a bridesmaid for Princess Mary and then the Duke paid a second visit to the Scottish estate, accompanied by his mother, the rumor took on all the guise of fact in its tale of Royal love. On January 16, 1923, any doubt was finally dispelled, for a court circulation of that date announced that the King and Queen had consented to the engagement of

their beloved son to the Scottish noblewoman. To the revelation of the betrothal, Their Majesties, King George V and Queen Mary added their blessing "to which the King has gladly given his consent." The formal consent of the King was necessary under the Royal Marriage Act of 1772, but that the royal romance between their second son and the daughter of one of Scotland's oldest lines received their unqualified approval, has been very well substantiated. Like any other lover, the duke voiced his own proposal and was accepted. And to his choice of Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon as the lady of his heart, all Britain gave its heartiest approval.

Her Majesty the Queen played her part in the job of serving the Empire, and a right royal part it was. Long before she was Duchess of York and the wife of a king's son, Queen Elizabeth was publicly giving of her time and energy to the country and to the Empire. She was but fourteen years of age when war broke out, but the strife did not leave her untouched. Four brothers went to the struggle, one to die in the front line at Loos, another suffered capture and imprisonment in Germany. Glamis Castle, her home, was converted into a hospital, and her mother, the Countess of Strathmore, and her sisters, were swept into the work of nursing. There, too, came our Elizabeth to cheer many a battle-weary soldier with her quick smile and a cheery word. Across the Empire today, as well as in England, are former soldiers who came to know their future Queen in the quiet of the war hospital at Glamis. Her Majesty wore the uniform of St. John's Ambulance Brigade, an order that has done so much for the sick, the weary and the suffering. Long after the war was over, and indeed until this present day, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, later the Duchess of York, and now the Queen of England, retained her interest in the nursing services that have always graced the British Empire.



Another Modern View

Coronation Service

The preceding chapters have been devoted to a condensed outline of the life story of Their Majesties, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Their unassuming, and yet, quite eventful life has been climaxed by the crowning glory of being proclaimed "Sovereigns of the Realm". . . . And on this ever-remembered May 12, 1937, his loyal subjects throughout the far-reaching British Empire and in all the furthestmost corners of the globe, will be filled with an emotional pride so humble, and yet so strong, as their beloved sovereign swears allegiance to the Realm. . . .

The Coronation Service is not a military spectacle or of political magnitude; it is purely a religious ceremony. It is the "Recognition of the King to the Church and the People," and as one reads this portrayal of the ceremony as it will be performed in Westminster Abbey, it will be realized just how deeply religious it is.

Before the reign of Henry VIII, the King was supreme in the land. He was the absolute ruler of all he surveyed, and he was, at all times, able to command at will. When Henry VIII came to the throne he was "elected" by the people. Thus came to an end a long period of tyranny.

As the great bell in Westminster's famed clock tower echoes through the morning stillness of this May 12th, the Dean of Westminster will head a long procession of clergy bearing the royal regalia to the High Altar for blessing. This will mark the beginning of a brilliant and colorful ceremony, which is enacted nowhere else in the universe today—the Crowning of a King and Queen of England.

Then, as the hour of the Coronation draws nigh, representatives of practically every nation in the world will gather in the Abbey to view the twenty historic events as they pass from one stage to another. People of every creed and color will pay homage on this eventful day to the future rulers of the greatest empire on earth, on which the sun never sets. Some in costly jewels and robes; some in brilliant uniforms; others wearing decorations and orders symbolical of great valor; still others in sombre evening dress, will view this never-to-be-forgotten phantasmagoria. All eyes will be focussed upon the entrance through which foreign dignitaries, princes and other important personages will precede Their Majesties.

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The venerable Archbishops of Canterbury and York, in their long State robes of gold and embroidered silk, and others in ceremonial dress, and preceded by the choir of the Royal Chapel, will pass slowly into the specially built Annex, and will await the coming of Their Majesties. As a sign that the King and Queen have arrived, the clergy, with the exception of certain bishops, will reappear, and then begins one of the greatest processions of all time.

First come the heralds in medieval dress; then to the strains of an anthem, the Knights of St. Michael and St. George; Knights of The Garter wearing full ceremonial robes; Knights of St. Patrick and the Knights of The Thistle. Following these will come the Lord Chamberlain and the Lord Steward of the Royal household; the Lord Privy Seal, Lord President of the Council and the Lord High Chancellor. Then the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury will indicate the approach of Her Majesty. Then will appear members of her household and officers bearing the regalia of Her Majesty, such as the Queen's Ivory Rod and Dove; the Sceptre with Cross and finally the Queen's Crown. Immediately behind the Crown, and in Royal robes, will come the Queen, herself, with a bishop walking on either side, and supported by six ladies of her household and five Gentlemen-at-Arms. Following will be the remaining members of the household.

Then the approach of the King will be heralded by the King's Champion in heraldic dress and carrying the King's Standard. Then in succession will be the Cup Bearer, Gentlemen-at-Arms and the Gentlemen of the Royal Bodyguard; then, noblemen bearing the King's regalia: the Great Golden Spurs; the Two-handed Sword of State, Swords of Justice and the Sword of

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Mercy, followed by the head officers of State, and finally three Dukes bearing The Sceptre, Orb and the glittering Crown of St. Edward. Then bishops will follow bearing the Bible and the Chalice. After a short pause, and to the strains of a march and the voices of the Royal Choir, and to the cries of "Long Live the King!" the King will enter.

Wearing the Cap of Estate, and in ermine robes and escorted on either side by a bishop and members of the King's Bodyguard, His Majesty will pass slowly up the aisle and take his Chair of Estate not far from that of the Queen.

In private and humble prayer Their Majesties will kneel. Then returning to the chairs they will wait the first ceremony—the Recognition—in which the King is presented to the people and formally "elected" by them.

The "Recognition" is then read to the King by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who then proceeds to administer the oath. Holding the Bible, the King is asked: "Are You Willing?" to which he will reply: "I Am." A copy of the Coronation Roll is presented to His Majesty for signature. After solemnly swearing his allegiance the King is led to the Coronation Chair. Donning fine, worn, woollen robes used by Edward the Confessor, the King is then seated. His Majesty is then adorned with the Cap of Estate and anointed. He is consoled by the Dean of Westminster as he reverently pours Holy Oil upon the head of His Majesty. Then the Archbishop of Canterbury, with dignified and reverend bearing, makes the Sign of the Cross upon the forehead of our beloved monarch.

His Majesty is then vested with the Colobium Sindonis, and with great solemnity, is presented the Spurs and Swords, the symbols of power which dedicate him to the highest and noblest purposes. The Imperial Mantle is



Rev. F. R. Harback Rev. M. Willings Rev. F. Randall Powell

next presented and a ring placed upon the fourth finger of His Majesty's right hand. In the King's hands is then placed The Orb, a dazzling, yellow ball of gold. The sceptre with Cross, denoting power and justice, is placed in the right hand and in the left is placed the Sceptre with Dove, which denotes equity and mercy.

Moving to the Altar the "Consecration of the Crown" takes place. King Edward's Crown, as it is known, is of purest gold and is the "Official" Crown of England.

Amidst the most profound silence, the Archbishop of Canterbury, solemnly praying, poises the crown for a moment above the head of the King then slowly places it upon the head of His Majesty. This dramatic moment is relieved by the sudden and most brilliant illumination. Illustrious jewels flash to a burning flame as a golden iridescence radiates over the assemblage. Then from a multitude of voices comes the cry of "God Save The King."

As if in magic splendor the King, arrayed in all the symbolic emblems of Sovereignty, is now very gently lifted into the Chair of Estate. With ethereal demeanor the Archbishop of Canterbury bestows a kiss upon the left cheek of our beloved monarch. The King then speaks, and in an emotional voice, declares that "He Will be Faithful and Truth Will Bear," to his Estate of the Realm.

Two crowns will be used at the coronation of His Majesty King George VI. They are among the Crown jewels of England. There is the Crown of St. Edward, usually called the Crown of England. This crown was made for Charles II, and is a copy of that worn by Edward the Confessor. It is this crown which the Archbishop of Canterbury will place on the head of the monarch in the Coronation ceremony. Then there is the Imperial State Crown which is worn by the King upon all state occasions after the Coronation. The existing crown was made for Queen Victoria in 1838, and is encrusted with historic gems. Among them are the ruby of the Black Prince, the earrings of Queen Elizabeth and a diamond from Edward the Confessor's ring. In the front of the crown is the famed Star of Africa, a 309 carat diamond cut from the Cullinan, and the crown also contains in all, 277 pearls, 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds and five rubies.

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CORONATION

The following extracts from the Calgary Daily Herald will be of interest at this time to the residents of the district in general. We think the following article, under the circumstances, is appropriate to the trend of this book.

"On Coronation Day, in May, Coronation will send a cable to Their Majesties telling them the reason for the same, and expressing loyalty and good wishes for a long and happy reign.

On May 12, Coronation will be gaily bedecked with flags and streamers to note the crowning of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. School children will be presented with mementoes of the occasion and numerous events are arranged to make it a gay and notable day. A Coronation medal, suitably inscribed, will be presented to the winner of a road race to start and finish in front of the Elks' hall.

On September 27, 1911, Coronation was put on the map in Alberta, midway between Lacombe and Kerrobert. On the evening of September 26, a special train arrived from Winnipeg with Canadian Pacific officials and prospective purchasers of Coronation lots and business sites. The auctioneer, T. C. Norris, employed by the C.P.R. to sell the townsite, later became premier of Manitoba.

E. Kolb, a caterer from Calgary, was engaged to feed the multitude, and somehow they were fed—500 of them. Some native ducks supplemented the eats. Much money was spent by the company advertising the name of

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Coronation, but at a late stage in the proceedings the postal authorities in Ottawa objected because there was a "Coronation" in New Brunswick, an insignificant little hamlet as far as the western Coronation was concerned. The C.P.R. officials were perturbed at the thought of so much money going for nought. Townsite Agent H. S. Northwood, still here, was apprised of the tangle by C.P.R. officials in Calgary and asked to do something quickly. The Board of Trade, one day old, was convened, and lusty protests were sent to the proper authorities. Wires were kept hot with the result that the royal name was retained for this spot on the map of Alberta.

A unique addition to a stamp collection would be a stamp bearing a picture of His Majesty, cancelled with Coronation post office date-stamp on the day of the Coronation.

Altogether there were eight townsites named "patriotically" on this stretch of railway by the C.P.R. All owe their names to circumstances surrounding the coronation of that day. In rotation, the eight townsites were called Fleet, Federal, Coronation, Throne, Veteran, Loyalist, Consort and Monitor. Each name had a distinct relation to the current coronation ceremony, and consequently to all future coronations. As a word "Fleet" means a body of ships in company, especially war ships. Hence the little hamlet of Fleet is representative of the British navy, most of which was at home for the coronation.

"Federal" pertains to a league or contract between states or nations. On coronation day, a contract was made between the many scattered parts of the British Empire, great and small. The contract made was one of allegiance, and the little hamlet of Federal stands to commemorate that contract.

"Coronation" represents that act of crowning a sovereign. The coronation ceremony itself was the great event of the day, and it is probable the heads of the C.P.R. had this in mind when they gave Coronation its name. For by making it a divisional point, they made it the one real town amongst the other seven. Its population almost equals that of the other seven combined.

"Throne" may be representative of two things; either the chair of state, or the sovereign power and dignity of the King himself. It is probable though that the namers had the first thought in mind, when they gave Throne its name.

"Veteran" means those who have long been in the service of the British crown. Parliament and the army are undoubtedly the distinct symbols for which this little village stands.

"Loyalist" is a person who adheres to his sovereign. And 26 years ago the village of Loyalist was so named as to embody the idea of the individual persons of the whole British Empire, adhering to their King.

"Consort" is the wife of the King. Thus, Alberta will always possess a symbol for its Queen.

"Monitor," the last of the list, like Throne, has two possible meanings. It may be either representative of the British, deduced from its meaning of an ironclad steam vessel sunk deeply in the water; or it may represent the late King himself. Monitor is one who admonishes or warns of faults, and informs of duty. What other coronation personage is more vested with such authority than the King?"

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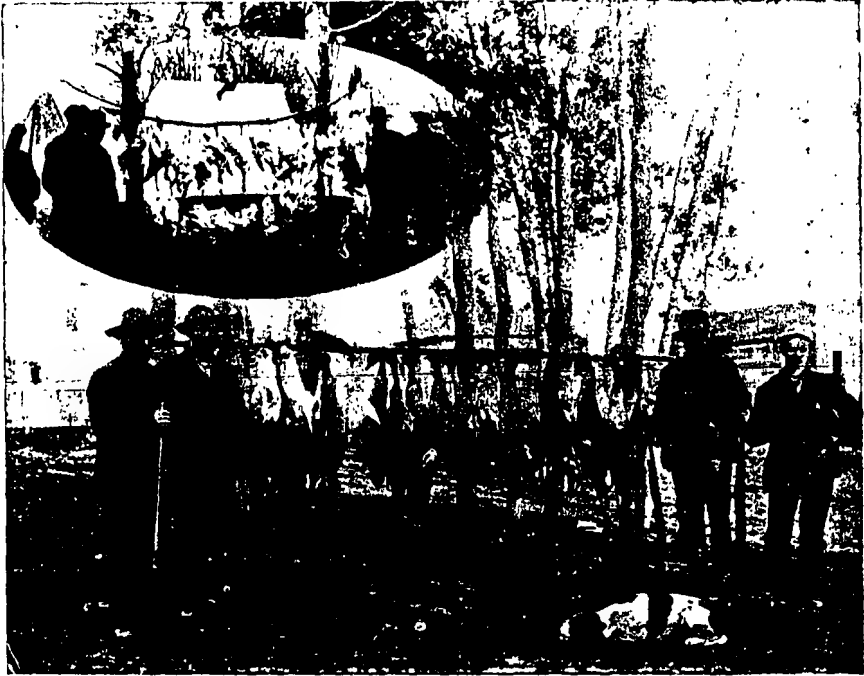
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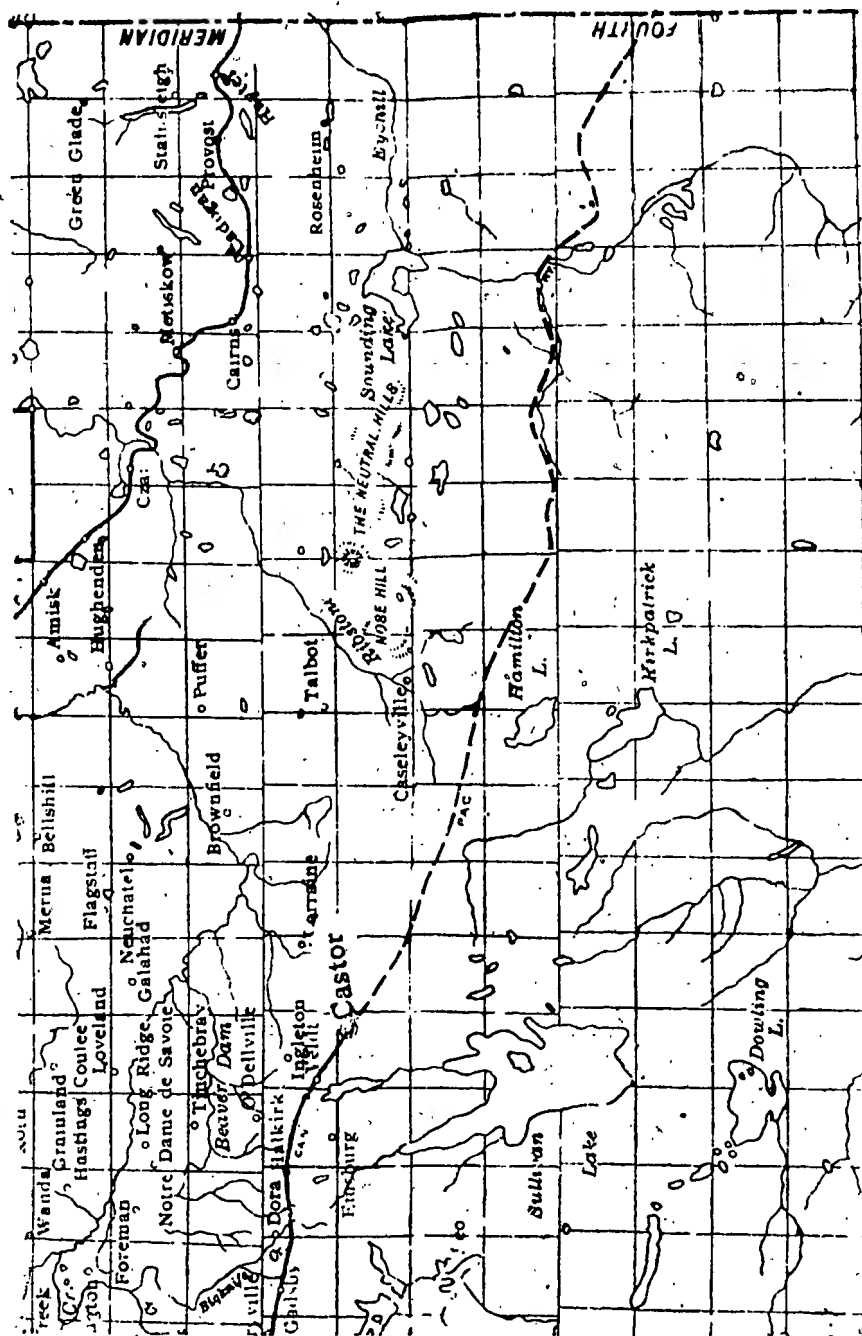
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